

January 9, 2007

Good Morning. **Welcome to a new day in San Jose.**

I am delighted and honored to be your new Mayor. I want to thank the people of San Jose for this opportunity, and I thank all of you for coming to participate in this community celebration.

I want to thank our San Jose councilmembers and the other elected officials present today. I appreciate the presence of my fellow Mayors: Dan Furtado from Campbell, Aileen Cao from Saratoga, Kris Wang from Cupertino and Otto Lee from Sunnyvale.

District Attorney Dolores Carr, thanks for being here.

It's good to see Former Mayors Ron James, Janet Gray Hayes, Tom McEnery and Ron Gonzales. Ron thanks for your help and the help of your staff in making a smooth transition.

Thanks to my Transition Leaders Former Mayor Tom McEnery, Victor Ajlouny and Deanna Santana, and my Transition Advisory Committee members, who made a lot of things happen for me over the last two months. Thanks to the people who coordinated this event : Jim Reber, Alicia Bosco, Demetria Machado, Vilcia Rodriguez and all the many city employees who worked hard to make it happen.

Thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Connie Martinez, the Executive Director of the Children's Discovery Museum and leader of First Act .

I especially want to thank the members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for being here. As a city we work with many other governments, but I think one of our most important relationships is with Santa Clara County. Most of the people you serve are from San Jose. I won't forget that fact, and I am looking forward to a strong and cooperative relationship that will help improve the lives of our people.

A big thank you goes to our City Manager Les White for his help during the transition but even more for coming back to serve the city in a time of need.

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An Inauguration is by its nature a new beginning and a time to look forward. But as we look forward to a better and brighter future for San Jose let us not forget the service and the sacrifice of those who came before us and those who make this day possible.

Let's pause to remember our Spanish and Mexican founders, like Ignacio Archuleta, the first Alcalde (mayor), and Los Pobladores, a multi-ethnic group of pioneers who started San Jose 229 years ago.

Let's remember and give thanks to the men and women who keep this city running, our hard working employees who deliver quality services, every day, in good times and in bad. I got a chance to thank some of them personally on my first day on the job, New Years Day, and I had the pleasure of meeting the longest serving full time employee, Captain Doug Stewart, San Jose Fire Department, who has 44 years of service to the people of San Jose. Captain Stewart started his career as a parking lot attendant and worked his way up. Captain Stewart. Thanks for your service.

I especially want to acknowledge the service and sacrifices of our police officers and firefighters and their families. Father Stout: thank you for reminding us.

I also want to remind us all that just outside the door of this rotunda, Police Officers Gene Simpson and Gordon Silva gave their lives in the line of duty on Jan 20, 1989. You can see plaques on the sidewalks, just 50 steps away, where they died protecting our community.

I want to thank the men and women of the United States armed forces who make it possible for us to hold this ceremony in safety and peace.

Hundreds of thousands of them serve in difficult and dangerous conditions around the world. Major Campbell, . . . Kim, thanks for your service.

I also want to thank the other members of my family, my wife Paula, my sister Sandy Reed and my brother-in-law Bob Ingle who are here today, and my son Alex who is in Washington DC, working to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thank you for your support and your

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understanding.

Today we turn from the past and set a new direction for San Jose. We are going to rebuild the confidence of our citizens in the Mayor's office and the city government, starting today. This evening the City Council will take up the Reed Reforms, a series of actions to help instill honesty, fiscal responsibility and open government into the culture of city hall. We are going to get a government we can be proud of. The special interest groups, the lobbyists, the influence peddlers and the fixers will not run city hall. The Reed Reforms are just the first, but essential, steps in creating a strong foundation on which to build San Jose into a great city.

A great city must be a great place to live, work and raise a family, and more.

A great city has safe neighborhoods and good schools, providing all children an opportunity to reach their full potential.

A great city is fiscally responsible and efficiently delivers quality services for its people.

A great city has a great downtown that is economically strong and vibrant with arts, culture and entertainment.

A great city has sustainable growth that gives future generations opportunities for jobs and housing and preserves open space and protects the environment.

Together we can and we will build a great city.

To all of the people of San Jose -- I am asking you to help build San Jose into a great city. Get involved in our schools, reach out to your neighbors, help those less fortunate. Join "Volunteer San Jose."

To all of our nearly 7000 employees -- Think back to the reasons you were motivated to go into public service. I ask you to rededicate yourself to

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service to the community and take your work to a higher level.

To the City Manager and senior staff -- You are highly skilled professionals and we need your talents and expect your candor. Let the City Council make the tough policy decisions, and then we will rely on you to carry them out vigorously.

To my colleagues on the city council -- your passion for service and commitment to the community and hard work have put you in a position of public trust, which we all have to renew with our actions every day. I know you have talents that will be essential in solving our problems and moving us forward. We must work together in collaboration to serve the people of San Jose.

The people of San Jose and Silicon Valley have changed the world. The innovations that have come out of our collective efforts over the past few decades have helped raise the living standards for hundreds of millions of people around the world. We are at the epicenter of the transformation of society from the industrial age to the information age and into the knowledge age. What we do here is important and it must continue.

San Jose must remain the Capital of Silicon Valley, and Silicon Valley must remain the innovation center of the world. **The best days of San Jose and the best days of Silicon Valley are ahead of us.**

There are many things that San Jose must do to make that happen, such as being the best place in the world to start and grow a business and making sure our driving industries stay here and grow here.

San Jose is the 10th largest city in the nation, the 3rd largest city in California, a state that alone would be the world's 6th largest economy, but our role in the world is more than just economic development and technological innovation.

We have an opportunity and an obligation here in San Jose to demonstrate

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to the world how people from different ethnicities, religions and cultures can live, work, play and prosper together.

San Jose will be a beacon of peace and prosperity to show the world what can happen when people from around the world come together and focus on what they have in common rather than on their differences. In a world full of ethnic and religious hatred and violence we have a chance to show the world a better way of life. We can do it and we will do it. (Just look around this city hall)

I would like close with something the late President Gerald R. Ford said at his Inauguration: **“With all the strength and all the good sense I have gained from life, with all the confidences my family, my friends, and my dedicated staff impart to me, and with the good will of countless Americans, I promise to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best I can. God helping me, I will not let you down.”**